

CHAPTER I

BASIC PRINCIPLES

Public Office is a Public Trust (Sec. 1 Art. 11 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution; RA 6713). Public officials and employees must at all times be accountable to the people, serve them with utmost honesty, responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and efficiently act with patriotism and lead modest lives.

Section 2 of Presidential Decree No. 1445 otherwise known as The State Auditing Code of the Philippines states that “all resources of the government shall be managed, expended or utilized in accordance with law, rules and regulations & safeguarded against loss or wastage through illegal or improper disposition with the view of ensuring economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the operation of the government”. The responsibility to take care of such policy rests directly with the chief or the head of the government agency concerned.

Thus, every officer of the government whose duties require or permit the possession or custody of funds and property should adhere to the declared policy of the state. S/he shall promote the ideas of good governance in all its branches, department, agencies, subdivisions and instrumentalities including Government-Owned and Controlled Corporation (GOCC) and Local Government Units (LGUs). Likewise, s/he shall exercise proper transparency, accountability, responsibility and

liability in undertaking his/her duties and functions. Subsequently, the exercise of such duties and functions shall mean to provide good governance in the implementation of programs and projects.

The head of the Office is primarily responsible for all government funds and properties pertaining to his/her agency. Likewise, the person entrusted with the possession or custody of the funds or property shall be responsible to the head of Office without prejudice to the liability of either party of the government.